

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1238

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, AG

SUBJECT: WALDHEIM-BOUMEDIENE TALKS, APRIL 5-6

REF: (A) USUN 1046; (B) USUN 1164

SUMMARY: DURING APRIL 5-6 VISIT TO ALGIERS, UNSYG WALDHEIM STRESSED TO PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE NEED AVOID CONFRONTATION IN FORTHCOMING UNGA SESSIONS. WALDHEIM GAINED IMPRESSION THAT BOUMEDIENE FULLY RECOGNIZES IMPORTANCE AGREED SOLUTIONS, BUT AT SAME TIME FEELS NEW ECONOMIC ORDER ESSENTIAL FOR DEVELOPING STATES, WHICH, BOUMEDIENE SAID, WILL CONTINUE TO FIGHT FOR RIGHTS. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING APRIL 16 CALL ON UNSYG WALDHEIM, AMB. BENNETT ASKED SYG ABOUT HIS TALKS WITH PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE DURING APRIL 5-6 VISIT TO ALGIERS (REF (A)).

2. WALDHEIM EXPLAINED, AS HE HAD TO AMB. SCALI ON APRIL 1, THAT HIS TRIP TO ALGIERS WAS TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC SUBJECTS AS THEY RELATE TO THE FORTHCOMING SPECIAL AND REGULAR UNGA SESSIONS. HE HAD STRESSED TO BOUMEDIENE THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE SESSIONS NOT ONLY FOR THE U.N. BUT FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN GENERAL. HE HAD UNDERLINED THE NEED TO AVOID CONFRONTATION AND TO ACHIEVE AGREED SOLUTIONS. HE TOLD BOUMEDIENE THAT THE U.N. HAS A LOT GOING ON THESE SESSIONS. THE U.N.'S IMAGE AND CREDIBILITY RELATE TO THE ABILITY TO IMPLEMENT RESOLUTIONS.

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THEREFORE, IT ESSENTIAL THROUGH BILATERAL AND REGIONAL

CHANNELS TO CREATE A BETTER CLIMATE TO HELP OVERCOME CONFRONTATION IN THE U.N.

3. WALDHEIM GAINED IMPRESSION THAT BOUMEDIENE FULLY UNDERSTANDS THIS NEED, BUT AT SAME TIME FEELS A NEW ECONOMIC ORDER IS ESSENTIAL FOR DEVELOPING STATES. BOUMEDIENE EMPHASIZED THAT THE UNDERDEVELOPED MUST HAVE THEIR SHARE AND NEED BETTER UNDERSTANDING FROM THE INDUSTRIALIZED. AT SAME TIME, BOUMEDIENE RECOGNIZES IMPORTANCE OF AGREED SOLUTIONS. WALDHEIM EVALUATED BOUMEDIENE'S REACTION AS "ON THE WHOLE POSITIVE," BUT BOUMEDIENE HAD STRESSED THAT THE UNDERDEVELOPED WILL CONTINUE TO FIGHT FOR THEIR RIGHTS.

4. WHEN AMB. BENNETT COMMENTED THAT U.S.-ALGERIAN BILATERAL RELATIONS ARE PROCEEDING ON A PRACTICAL BASIS IN COMPARISON WITH THOSE IN THE MULTILATERAL SPHERE, WALDHEIM SAID HE HAD HEARD THE SAME FROM OFFICIALS IN BONN REGARDING FRG-ALGERIAN RELATIONS.

5. WHILE WALDHEIM HAD HEARD RUMORS FOR SEVERAL MONTHS (INITIALLY FROM BULGARIA'S UN AMB. FROZEV) ABOUT A MOVE TO TRANSFER THE UNGA SPECIAL SESSION FROM NEW YORK TO ALGIERS (REF (B)), BOUMEDIENE HAD NOT MENTIONED THIS. NEITHER HAD WALDHEIM RAISED IT BECAUSE HE HAD NOT WANTED TO GIVE THE IDEA IMPETUS. WERE SUCH A MOVE STILL AFOOT, WALDHEIM BELIEVES BOUMEDIENE WOULD HAVE RAISED IT. WALDHEIM ADDED THAT A CHANGE IN VENUE WOULD REQUIRE CONSIDERABLE LEAD-IN TIME, BUT DID NOT GIVE THE IMPRESSION OF BEING PREPARED TO OPPOSE VIGOROUSLY SUCH A CHANGE.

6. AMB. BENNETT THEN STRESSED TO WALDHEIM THAT NEITHER DOES THE U.S. WANT TO GIVE THIS IDEA IMPETUS. BENNETT EMPHASIZED OUR VIEW THAT A MOVE OF THE SPECIAL SESSION TO ALGIERS WOULD BE A GREAT MISTAKE.

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